

PREVENTING EXPOSURE TO PCB'S IN THE 10 MILE/LANGE/REVERE CANALS
From the Macomb County Health Department Hotline
586-466-7923

The materials of concern in the 10 Mile/Lange/Revere Canals were found in the bottom sediments and therefore human exposure during normal residential activities should be insignificant.

Should the fish be eaten?

The Macomb County Health Department does not recommend fishing in the canal or eating fish from the canal. The 2001 Michigan Fish Consumption Advisory* includes recommendations for limiting the eating of fish caught in Lake St. Clair due to PCB contamination. You should consult the Fish Advisory for specific recommendations by species for fish consumed from Lake St. Clair.

Should canal water be used for lawn irrigation?

The precise risk of using canal water for irrigation of lawns or gardens is unknown, but likely very low. However, the Macomb County Health Department does not recommend that water from the canal be used to water lawns or gardens.

Should I swim or wade in the canal?

No. The Macomb County Health Department does not recommend swimming or wading in canals. These activities should only be pursued at managed recreational swimming locations where regular water quality monitoring and maintenance are conducted and where lifesaving personnel are present.

What about other exposures?

Other ways that persons can be exposed to toxic materials include breathing of airborne contaminants, direct consumption and contact with contaminated materials. In the case of the Lange Street Canal, none of these exposures is likely to occur, and therefore should be of little concern.

To help protect the environment and the St. Clair waterway, the Macomb County Health Department does not recommend activities in the canal that are likely to stir up sediments and facilitate movement of the sediments throughout the canal.

For more detailed information visit our website at www.macombcountymi.gov/publichealth.

*Updated, 2009. See www.michigan.gov/fishandgameadvisory .